

DAVID'S VISION BECAME DISTORTED

[2 Samuel 12:5-7](#) “And David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man.”

Our eyes and sight are priceless gifts of God. However, due to the effects of sin, they suffer the same imperfections as other parts of the body. We are told that more than half the people of the United States wear corrective glasses, and there are many more who should have some form of optical help.

Our spiritual sight has an even greater distortion. People not born again of water and the Spirit cannot see at all, they are totally blind, and even those who are converted to the saving faith in Jesus Christ have not perfect vision.

Jesus upbraided the people of His day because they could see and magnify the “mote” in another’s eye but could not see the “beam” which was distorting their own vision. ([Matt 7:3-5](#))

III. FIRST REMOVE THE PLANK FROM YOUR EYE

Matthew 7:3-5 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? (4) Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? (5) Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

David, in our text, is another example of a long, long line of people whose spiritual sight became so pitifully distorted that vision itself almost disappeared.

DAVID'S VISION BECAME DISTORTED

1. HE COULD SEE THE "MOTE" IN ANOTHER'S EYE

David had committed adultery with Bathsheba the wife of Uriah. In order to cover up his sin he ordered Uriah killed by having the soldiers withdraw from him in battle. So the valiant soldier died by the hand of David. David thought he had committed the perfect crime, the perfect murder, and so he remained unrepentant for a long time. He seems to have adopted this attitude –“The king can do no wrong, kings have rights which the common people do not have, a king can do what he wishes.” (“I want something and why can't I have it since I have the power to get it.”)

In love for this fallen sinner the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to David to open his eyes to the enormity of his guilt, to clear his distorted vision.

Nathan told David the parable of the little ewe lamb. It is a pathetic parable. A rich man with many flocks and herds stole the one little ewe lamb from

his poor neighbor. The little pet lamb was slain and eaten by the rich man and his guests.



The parable touched the heart of David, who thought it was a true story which took place in his kingdom. David could see the guilt of the rich man which was only a “mote” compared to the sins of the king. Certainly it was a pitiless crime which the rich man committed, but it did not deserve the death sentence which David decreed. Common sense, justice and decency tell us that a man’s life is worth much more than the life of any animal. David’s vision had become distorted and perverted, so that he could not see clearly at all. He saw the “mote” in another’s eye, but magnified it all out of proportion. This is simply another form of idolatry, called self-worship. “Other people are wicked and evil, but I am not as other men are,” is the distorted vision of all Pharisees. “Ye shall be as gods,” said the devil in the garden of Eden, and the desire to fulfill that goal seems to linger in the breast of every human being. The devil wants us to practice self-worship and thereby fall an easy prey to his wiles and snares. Lest we forget and fall into the same sins as David, let us remember that we are people of like passions. Is it not true that other peoples’ faults are

easily discerned by us and magnified? Can we claim exemption to this rule into which sin has brought us? Do any of us have perfect spiritual vision? The way and manner in which we mistakenly judge other people and misconceive ourselves should be a constant source of wonderment for us all. It is appalling. David's vision was distorted, but so is ours. It is as though we look through a telescope at our neighbor's faults and see them greatly magnified, and then we turn the telescope around and look through the wrong end at our own faults where they seem to be small and hardly noticeable.

2. HE COULD NOT SEE THE "BEAM" IN HIS OWN EYE

David could readily perceive the sins of the rich man in the parable. But look at his own sins. He coveted his neighbor's wife, he stole her from her husband, he committed adultery with her, he lied and deceived about his wickedness and tried to cover it up, he had Uriah killed, he misused his authority as king of the realm. He did all this in defiance of God's will, although he was a special servant and prophet of the Lord.

Did David clearly see his own wickedness? Not at all. His attitude seems to have been – "I am a king, and a king has more rights than the average man. Bathsheba wanted me, Uriah really died as a brave soldier for his country. It is not as bad as it looks. Others have done worse things than this." He made excuses and rationalized his actions.

David looked right at his sins but could not see them in the proper light. He had a "beam" in his eye which distorted the whole picture, the "beam" of self-worship or idolatry.

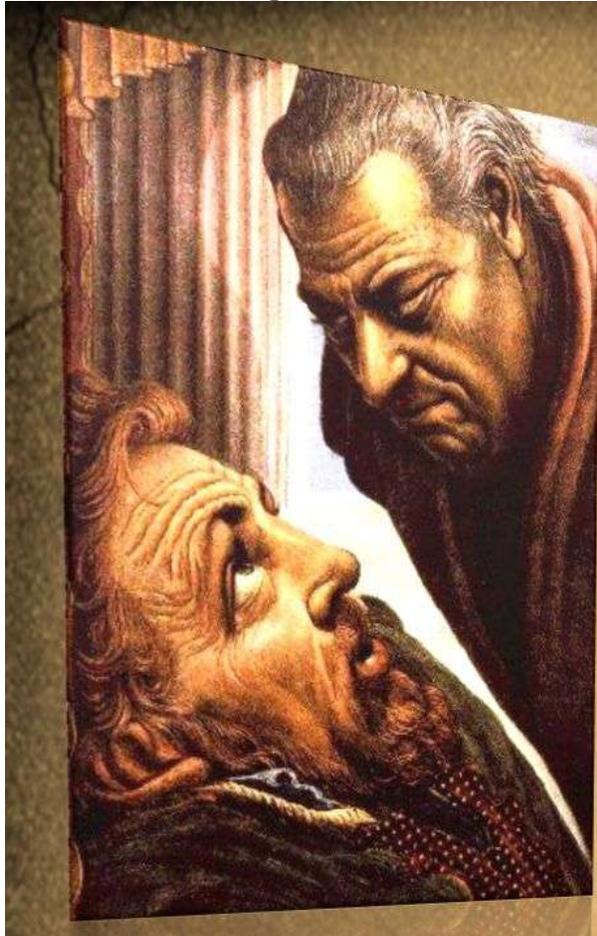
He that is without sin among us let him cast the first stone at David. Do we have a better picture of ourselves than David had of himself? Do we not minimize and rationalize our sins and wrongs? How truthful are we really with ourselves? How many of us can honestly say with the Apostle Paul, "I am the chief of sinners"?

David's soul received a great shock when Nathan said to him, "Thou art the man." David was like the rich man in the parable whom he had already judged. David was that very wicked man. Suddenly his eyes cleared and his vision was restored and he saw the enormity of his guilt and confessed it in v.13, "I have sinned against the Lord." The "beam" was removed from his eye and the distortion was taken away.

This terrified sinner was now given the assurance of the forgiveness of his sins in v.13, "The Lord also hath put away thy sin." It should be self-evident to us that the Lord would put away his sins only because David believed in the coming Messiah and Savior from sin. David wrote of the promised Redeemer, believed in Him, and now returned to Him. That is the only

reason why he found forgiveness for all his sins. Without Christ there is no remission of sins. The corrective lens of God's Word restored David's vision and corrected the distortion.

Therein lays our only hope of salvation. We, too, have sinned against the Lord and deserve to be punished. Our plea, like David's, is based upon the cross of Jesus who paid for all our transgressions. By faith in Him we have forgiveness and salvation. Faith in Jesus restores our vision to better evaluate our neighbor's faults and our own sins.



Are You The Man?

2 Samuel 12:7 (NKJV)
7 Then Nathan said to David,
"You *are* the man! Thus says the
LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed
you king over Israel, and I
delivered you from the hand of
Saul.'

Have you had your eyes checked lately? Is your vision blurred? Do you need glasses? Go to the Word of God, go to God Himself, He alone can help you. AND HE WILL! He came to fallen David out of love for his soul, He came and found His lost sheep and saved him. The Lord wants to save every single one of us. Come to Jesus now for forgiveness and salvation. With the Lord's eye-glasses we will be able to see the enormity of our sins and transgressions. Secondly, with the Greeks of Jesus' day ([John 12:21](#)) we can also say, "Sir, we would see Jesus." We would see Jesus by faith for the forgiveness of all our sins. Thirdly, we shall have clear vision to put

the best construction upon our neighbors deeds, to speak well of him, to bear his burdens, and to love him. Finally, "Now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face"(I Cor.13:12). Some day, with redeemed eyes, will be fulfilled the earnest desire of our Savior, "That they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me" [John 17:24](#). Then we shall have perfect vision forever. AMEN.

PRAYER. O Lord, keep us from spiritual blindness and self-deception. Give us eyes and understanding to see all our sins and iniquities. But above all, hold the cross of Jesus before our eyes that we may always see our only way to heaven. We are looking forward to the great day when we shall see Thee in all Thy glory, O Father, Son, and Spirit, ever one God world without end. AMEN.